

*a2* be seen that AHAS from the strains containing pILVIH2 or pILVIH612 plasmids exhibits the highest level of resistance to L-valine.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21 with the following text:

(5) The DNA of (4), wherein the mutation of the amino acid residue corresponding to serine residue at the amino acid number 17 is replacement of the serine residue with phenylalanine residue, the mutation of the amino acid residue corresponding to asparagine residue at the amino acid number 29 is replacement of the asparagine residue with lysine residue or tyrosine residue, and the mutation of the amino acid residue corresponding to glycine residue at the amino acid number 14 is replacement of the glycine residue with aspartic acid residue.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 26 with the following text:

*a3* The small subunit has a mutation to replace an amino acid residue corresponding to serine residue at the amino acid number 17 with another amino acid residue or a mutation to replace an amino acid residue corresponding to asparagine residue at the amino acid number 29 with another amino acid residue or a mutation to delete a C-terminal region from the amino acid number 91 downwards, in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a combination of two or more mutations selected from the group consisting of aforementioned mutations and a mutation to replace an amino acid residue corresponding to glycine residue at the amino acid number 14 with another amino acid residue in SEQ ID NO: 2. The small subunits of AHAS III which have these mutations also hereafter referred to as mutant small subunit of AHAS III. As the mutation, for the amino acid residue corresponding to serine residue at the amino acid number 17 is preferably exemplified by replacement of the serine residue with phenylalanine residue, and for the amino acid residue corresponding to asparagine residue at the amino acid number 29 it is exemplified by replacement of the asparagine residue with lysine or tyrosine residue, and for the amino acid residue corresponding to glycine residue at the amino acid